



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Sentencing

Defendant: Damon Stephens

**SAGINAW AREA MAN SENTENCED TO 270 MONTHS IN PRISON
ON DRUG CHARGES**

Damon Stephens, 33, a resident of Saginaw was sentenced on July 16, 2007 on charges of distributing cocaine and possessing cocaine base, to 270 months in federal prison which will be served consecutive to the state sentence that he is currently serving on parole violations, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Valerie J. Goddard, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Stephens was sentenced in U.S. District Court by Judge Thomas L. Ludington. In addition to the prison sentence, Judge Ludington ordered Stephens to a 6-year term of supervised release to be served upon his release from prison.

The investigation showed that Stephens was trafficking in cocaine in the Saginaw area during 2005 and 2006 and that he sold a quantity of cocaine to a government informant in April of 2006. Stephens was arrested during the execution of a search warrant at a residence in

Saginaw in June of 2006 and was found in possession of a quantity of cocaine base, which is commonly referred to as crack cocaine. The indictment arose out of an investigation by federal and state law enforcement officers into drug trafficking activities of street gangs in Saginaw, including a gang known as the Sunnyside Gang that is believed to have engaged in drug trafficking and various related acts of violence in the south side of the City of Saginaw for a number of years.

“The prosecution of gang-related drug trafficking is a high priority of my office. This case is a good example of the kind of results that can be obtained from effective state and federal cooperation,” United States Attorney Murphy said.

Murphy commended the work of the agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, state and local officers assigned to the Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (BAYANET) and federal, state and local officers assigned to the Saginaw SAFE Streets task force in this investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Hluchaniuk.